Boston Oct. 4th 1872

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I should hardly feel that I ought to trouble you with a second letter so soon if I did not feel that I had conveyed an impression of a deeper calamity having befallen me than was really the case. It was a most valued and faithful servant whose death was the first of a series of trials and fatigues which have made my summer and early autumn a very hard one to bear. Followed as this was by the severe

and my continued illness of my daughter-in-law and the consequent worry and exhaustion of my wife at the very time when both of us were expecting a little respite and recreation to fit us for the winter's duties, it took a good deal of the life out of me as out of all of us. I managed fortunately to get through my Lecture, (papers for the Atlantic) assistant doing my balance, but already my long (7 months') course of lectures had begun, and I started upon it tired rather than refreshed. My daughter-in-law has not yet got down stairs, and in the mean time my Lecturer son has returned from Europe so far from well that it is a new cause of anxiety for both my wife and myself.

To Mrs Lee without what I have any right to call a bereavement, I have yet had a good deal of trouble all round me - to say nothing of repeated indispositions from which I have myself been suffering.

I made up my mind that the best thing I could do was to give my time and attention for the present entirely to my lectures on anatomy. These do not call on the brain in a way that leaves exhaustion after it; I am often a good deal fatigued, but it does not worry me or leave me wakeful or nervous, as memory, and methodical statement and lively diction are pretty much all I need to keep my listeners attentive.

Did you hear Mrs Lee has been indisposed I naturally feel to even thinking of new projects - my brain is lame and sore with the pelt of the

last two months, and besides, it
cost me a good deal of nervous
energy to write a series of a dozen
numbers like "The Poet at the Breakfast-
table," the new series which has been
publishing in The Atlantic Monthly for
1872 - 12 numbers, which Routledge, &
Smith is going to republish in England
at the time Osgood (late Fields & Co.) republi-
sh it in a volume here.

What you say of our political
condition and need is eminently
suggestive and instructive and I
thank you much for your candid
expression of opinion which I shall
not forget. Whether the seed you
have cast will take deep root in my
mind and there ripen at last above
ground I cannot say, but if I could
recast the two figures of the grand
Chinacadenic backward in my record
instead of forward, I should think the
chance was greater. At any rate I must
now try to grow fat on seven months' lecturing
and keeping my forehead vacuous of all literary and
social schemes - only wish I felt equal to the noble task you suggest.

Believe me, dear Mrs. Hunt, Very truly Yours O W Holmes

KEATS HOUSE

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